

# **BIG SPRING SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Newville, Pennsylvania**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2012**

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### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board of School Directors for the Big Spring School District met in the Big Spring High School Large Group Room, Room 140, at 8:14P.M. with President Wilbur Wolf, Jr., presiding. Six (6) directors present: Wilbur Wolf, Jr., President; William Swanson, Vice President; Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary; John McCrea; Richard Norris; and William Piper.

David Gutshall, Treasurer; Kingsley Blasco; and Richard Roush were absent.

Others in attendance: Richard W. Fry, Superintendent; Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent; Kevin Roberts, Director of Curriculum/Instruction and Educational Technology; Richard E. Kerr, Jr., Business Manager; Rick Gilliam, Director of Food Services and Student Transportation; Nick Hasse and Shania Radabaugh, Student Representatives to the Board of School Directors; and Brenda Line, Board Minutes.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The members of the Board of School Directors met in Executive Session to address personnel and legal issues from 7:52 to 8:13 P.M.

### **II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

President Wolf led all individuals present in the Pledge to the Flag.

### **III. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF THE BOARD MEETING MINUTES AND THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2012 REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick for approval of the September 17, 2012 Committee of the Whole of the Board Meeting Minutes and the September 17, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Minutes. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

**IV. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS**

**A. Student Representatives to the Board Report – Nick Hasse/Shania Radabaugh**

The students offered the following report:

1. In FFA news, the Dairy Management Team competed against 15 teams in the All-American Dairy Show in Harrisburg on September 18, 2012. Big Spring's seniors Cody Bear and Laura Ryan and juniors Mark Shughart and Joe Weber were the show champions. Individually, Joe Weber finished 8<sup>th</sup>, and Cody Bear finished 7<sup>th</sup>. Upcoming FFA events include the fall leadership conference, Ag Olympics and annual picnic, and Keystone International Livestock Exposition. The results of other recent FFA competitions are as follows: Chapter tractor contest-- Andrew Kurnath, 4<sup>th</sup> place and Cody Bear, 5<sup>th</sup> place; area tractor driving contest— Andrew Kurnath, 6<sup>th</sup> place; agronomy contest—Cody Bear, 5<sup>th</sup> place and Joe Weber, 4<sup>th</sup> place.
2. For the week of September 17, 2012, the high school male and female athletes of the week were both Bulldogs. For the girls, Lydia George was honored for her outstanding work and leadership with the field hockey team. Lydia leads the Sentinel area in scoring. For the boys, Vinny Todaro was honored for his excellent cross country season thus far. Vinny has won all of the races he has entered, including the Ben Bloser Bulldog Invitational and the Carlisle Puma Challenge.
3. Most athletic teams are at least halfway through their seasons. Varsity football will look for its first win this Friday night against James Buchanan. Boys' soccer has a 4-8-1 record. Girls' soccer has two wins. The volleyball team has one win. The field hockey team is currently 10-0 and situated at the top of the Colonial Division. The golf team finished the season with six wins. Boys' cross country has a 3-3 record with girls' cross country 6-0 and ranked first in the Colonial Division.
4. Congratulations to the Lady Bulldogs' cross country team for finishing 12<sup>th</sup> in the Carlisle Puma Invitational Challenge where they competed against teams from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. Vinny Todaro won the Carlisle Puma Challenge, again competing against some of the top cross country runners in five states with a time of 15:31 over 3.1 miles.
5. Prior to the home football game on Friday, September 21, 2012, students, staff, parents, and community members enjoyed the Gold Rush tailgate event that was organized by Mr. Berry, Mrs. Whitmoyer, Mrs. Madden, and Ms. Hetrick. Through the work of these teachers and some students from the Hometown Helpers Club, attendees enjoyed dinner, played cornhole, and enjoyed performances by the cheerleaders and the Marching Bulldogs. These teachers raised close to \$2,000 for their medical relief trip to Haiti in June, 2013.
6. The English, math, and science departments have nearly completed administering the CDTs, curriculum diagnostic tests.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **IV. STUDENT/STAFF RECOGNITION AND BOARD REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **A. Student Representatives to the Board Report (Continued)**

7. The high school faculty had a productive two hours during last week's delay day. During the first half of the morning, the school's five focus teams met. The majority of the faculty serves on a focus team that includes literacy, advisement, extra help and transitions, and grading and pathways. The remaining teachers not on focus teams either worked collaboratively on initiatives like common projects, common assessments, and Keystone review lessons or individually on literacy and extending and refining strategies. The second half of the morning included department meetings, with departments working on common syllabi updates, Keystone review lessons, and curriculum revisions.
8. Students have participated in two club days so far this year, with a total of 29 clubs meeting during 4<sup>th</sup> period. More than 90 percent of students are enrolled in a club, the most in recent years.
9. During last week's parent-teacher conferences, teachers conducted approximately 275 conferences and made hundreds of phone calls when not conducting conferences.
10. Homecoming Week began today with spirit days slated for each day, including comfy day, sports/jersey day, Hawaiian/floral day, mismatch/neon day, and maroon and gold day. New for homecoming this year is a door-decorating contest sponsored by the Hometown Hepers. The Homecoming Court will be presented during halftime of Friday's game with James Buchanan. The Polynesian Paradise-themed Homecoming Dance is slated for Saturday, October 6, 2012, from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. in the commons area.
11. The leadership development class is encouraging students to participate in color wars days.
12. Teachers are using the "Remind 101" cell phone function to text important reminders to students, such as assignments and upcoming events. This provides an opportunity for teachers to communicate with students without giving out personal telephone numbers.

President Wolf thanked the students for the report.

#### **B. 2012 Girls' Softball Team Presentation**

Mr. Jay Hockenbroch thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for their support of Big Spring's athletic program and introduced Coach Calaman and Coach Saylor, 2012 State champion girls' softball team coaches. The coaches thanked the Board for the opportunity to represent Big Spring School District in this capacity, and they presented Board members with softballs signed by the team members, along with a limited-edition 8"-by-10" photograph of the team.

President Wolf commended the coaches for their hard work and thanked them for attending this evening's Board meeting.

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### V. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's Report is presented at the second Board meeting each month.

### VI. PAYMENT OF BILLS

General Fund	\$ 535,868.35	Checks #67322-67499 and 9131201
Cafeteria Fund	\$ 1,287.22	Checks #5655-5658
Student Activities Fund	\$ 19,431.56	Checks #13434-13466
Capital Projects	\$ 6,500.00	Check #633
Newville Project	\$ 5,000.00	Check #206
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 568,087.13</b>	

Motion by Swanson, seconded by Norris for approval of General Fund, Cafeteria Fund, Student Activity/Miscellaneous Fund, Capital Projects Fund, and Newville Project payments of bills as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### VII. READING OF CORRESPONDENCE

There was no reading of correspondence.

### VIII. RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Cassidy Bannan, Linda Bowles, Nikki Burkner, Rachel Carson, Rachel Diehl, Lauren Dolan, Katelyn Fager, Carol Graham, Ander Kashner, April Messenger, Nicole Slickers, Laurie Turner, Summer Turner, Kat Werner, and Dale Zachary.

### IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

**A. Ms. Summer Ray Turner**, 2011 Big Spring High School graduate, 329 Greason Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding a current Big Spring Middle School Student Council fundraiser that culminates in a performance by a magician/illusionist from Las Vegas. Ms. Turner indicated that only those students who have sold \$45 worth of goods for the fundraiser would be eligible to attend the fundraiser.

Ms. Turner indicated that she believes this is unfair to those students who may come from families who are suffering ill effects from the current state of the economy and are unable to sell the quota. Ms. Turner indicated that, in her opinion, the purpose of the auditorium is for students in the middle school to sit together and participate in events, and she indicated that prohibiting students from attending is punishing them for something they may have no control over. Ms. Turner noted that she is not aware of any prior fundraiser that punishes students such as this.

Ms. Turner thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak this evening.

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### IX. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD (Continued)

- B. **Ms. Carol Graham**, 2565 Walnut Bottom Road, Carlisle, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors and offered a prayer of encouragement for the Board members and the community.

President Wolf thanked Ms. Graham for attending this evening's meeting and offering a prayer.

### X. STRUCTURED PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

No structured public comment was offered.

### XI. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

(NOTE: The Board addressed  
XII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7,  
following Item A-7.)

### XII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS

##### 1. Additional Per Diem Substitute Teachers

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Kristin Holmes	Elementary Education
Eden Eliff	Mathematics 7-12
Nicole Schmidt	English 7-12

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the additions listed to the 2012-2013 per diem substitute teacher list as presented.

- (ACTION ITEM)**
2. **Mrs. Beth Demo** submitted her letter of resignation as a Speech/Language Clinician, effective October 1, 2012.

A copy of Mrs. Demo's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept Mrs. Demo's resignation as a Speech/Language Clinician, effective October 1, 2012.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)**

##### **3. Approval of Child-Rearing Leave for Lori Shover (ACTION ITEM)**

Mrs. Lori Shover, Middle School General and Vocal Music Teacher, requested a leave of absence under the Family & Medical Leave Act from approximately December 17, 2012, through approximately April 2, 2013. According to Section 3.08 of the contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the District, a professional employee may request up to one year of child-rearing leave upon the birth of a child. In addition to the duration of the leave period, her request meets all provisions for a child-rearing leave according to the current contract.

A copy of Mrs. Shover's letter was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Shover's request for leave under the Family & Medical Leave Act and a child-rearing leave of absence from approximately December 17, 2012, through approximately April 2, 2013.

##### **4. Learning Support Aide Recommendation (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. William Gillet, Supervisor of Special Education recommended the individual listed as a Learning Support Aide at the Middle School for the 2012-2013 school year, replacing Ms. Lori Simon.

**Shawn Frengel**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Mrs. Shawn Frengel as presented.

##### **5. Custodial Substitute Recommendation (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Rick Gilliam, Director of Building and Grounds and Transportation, recommended the individual listed as a custodial substitute the 2012-2013 school year.

**Melissa  
Richardson**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Mrs. Melissa Richardson as presented.

##### **6. Student Council Advisor (ACTION ITEM)**

Dr. Linda Wilson, Middle School Principal, recommended the individual listed as Middle School Student Council Advisor for the 2012-2013 school year.

**Courtney Rickabaugh**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the appointment of Mrs. Courtney Rickabaugh as presented.

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### XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### A. PERSONNEL CONCERNS (Continued)

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

7. **Luke Nerone** Long-Term Substitute Sixth Grade English Teacher  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007 at the Middle School

##### **Education:**

Dickinson College - American Studies  
Wilson College - Elementary Education

##### **Experience:**

Long-Term Substitute Teacher – Big Spring Middle School - Sixth Grade  
Guest Teacher in Districts within the Capital Area Intermediate Unit

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors appoint Mr. Nerone to serve as a Long-Term Substitute Sixth Grade English Teacher at the Middle School, replacing Ms. Cramer, who is on leave of absence from October 1, 2012, through December 21, 2012. Mr. Nerone's compensation for this position should be established at Bachelor's Degree Step 1, \$42,588.00, based on the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

##### **VOTE ON XII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS**

Motion by Norris, seconded by Swanson to combine and approve XII., NEW BUSINESS, A., PERSONNEL CONCERNS, Items A-1 through A-7, as outlined and recommended above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

### XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### B. Credit Pay

##### **(ACTION ITEM)**

The professional employees whose names are listed below have successfully completed graduate work and are entitled to the specified amount in accordance with the negotiated contract.

<b>Barbara Dellinger</b>	<b>\$1,236.00</b>
<b>Katie Magee</b>	<b><u>\$1,236.00</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,472.00</b>

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors authorize reimbursement for graduate credits as outlined above and as provided in the current contract between the Big Spring Education Association and the Big Spring School District.

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### XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

#### B. Credit Pay (Continued)

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### C. Mount Rock Elementary School PTO Annual Audit

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Big Spring School District has received a copy of a letter from Ms. Michelle Baker, CPA, advising that Mount Rock Elementary School PTO's records were accepted with auditing standards for the 2011-2012 school year.

A copy of the letter from Ms. Baker was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors accept the 2011-2012 Mount Rock Elementary School PTO's annual audit report as presented.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

Superintendent Fry indicated that, according to the auditor, there were some controls that weren't fully asserted. A joint PTO meeting is being scheduled to address these issues so that PTO representatives from all schools are aware.

Roll call vote on the motion by Norris and second by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### D. Request for Fundraiser

**(ACTION**

**ITEM)**Error! Bookmark not defined.

Mrs. Mary Jo Neidlinger and Mr. Jesse Deutsch, middle school physical education teachers, requested Board approval for the "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser, a fundraiser that will be offered to the sixth and seventh grade students.

Additional information regarding the fundraiser was included with the agenda.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve Mrs. Neidlinger's and Mr. Deutsch's request to conduct the "Hoops for Heart" fundraiser with the understanding that Mrs. Neidlinger and Mr. Deutsch will submit an audit summary of the fundraiser.

Motion by Norris seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.



## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **E. Facilities Utilization Request**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The Big Spring High School Post Grad Committee is requesting permission to use the High School Commons for a fundraiser pick up on Sunday, September 30, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Because the utilization date is on a Sunday, Board action is necessary.

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the Big Spring High School Post Grad Committee's request to use the High School Commons as presented.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Swanson to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **F. Updated Policy**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The administration submitted the updated policy listed and the copy was included with the agenda. The updated policy was an information item on the September 17, 2012 School Board Agenda.

##### **226 Searches**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve the policy as presented.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **G. Student Eligible for Early Graduation**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Based on successful completion of semester one course work the student listed will be eligible for early graduation for the 2012-2013 school year.

##### **Alexander Hess**

The administration recommended that the Board of School Directors approve January 18, 2013 graduation for the student listed based on his successful completion of all graduation requirements.

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **H. Approval Of Unsolicited Bid**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

The last Board agenda included an unsolicited bid for unused property. The Solicitor opined that we do not have to follow any set procedure other than existing board policy. He also said common sense dictates we ensure we are getting more than scrap value. The Maintenance department estimated the income from scrap sale would be \$66.50. The cost to load & transport the property is estimated at \$127.75.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors accept the unsolicited bid from Christian Bible Fellowship Church in the amount of \$350 for the four lights poles and assorted playground equipment described in the bid.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **I. Approval For Deitch Flood Parking at Stadium**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

Richard Deitch's insurance provider has required that he submit a flood plan. The major component of that plan is a safe area to move his fleet of busses in the event the creek floods. He has requested use of a school parking lot as his emergency parking area in the event of a flood. In discussions with the administration, the stadium parking lot seems to be the best location and is acceptable to Mr. Deitch and Mr. Fry.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors authorize Deitch Bussing to use the stadium parking lot in the event of a flood and directs the administration to work with our Solicitor to formally include the authorization into the existing contract with Deitch.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **J. Year End Reconciliation with Deitch Bussing**

**(ACTION ITEM)**

After joint review of transportation expenses for the 2011/12 school year, the District underpaid Mr. Deitch by \$74,212.09 based on the current payment method of a standard daily rate. After reconciling the mileage changes made to the standard daily rate, Mr. Deitch would owe the district \$2,751.30 in overpayment or a net owed by the District to Deitch of \$71,460.79.

The administration recommended the Board of School Directors approve a net payment of \$71,460.79 from 2011/2012 funds to finalize the 2011/2012 contract with Mr. Deitch.

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **J. Year End Reconciliation with Deitch Bussing (Continued) (ACTION ITEM)**

Mr. Fry indicated that software is being used to increase the accuracy of these payments to prevent underpayments to this degree in the future.

Roll call vote on the motion by Barrick and second by Norris to approve the recommendation as outlined above: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **(INFORMATION ITEM)**

**K. Ms. Phyllis Martin** was approved to fill the position as Assistant for Payroll and Benefits at the September 17, 2012 Board meeting. Ms. Martin's start date was approved for Tuesday, October 9, 2012. The Administration adjusted Ms. Martin's start date to Wednesday, October 3, 2012, to coincide with the Docstar implementation meeting on that date. During October, Ms. Martin will be concentrating on the Personnel module in CSIU and Docstar must be integral part of the future Personnel and Payroll systems.

#### **L. Proposed Updated Job Description (INFORMATION ITEM)**

Mrs. Jeanne Temple, Assistant Superintendent has made some revisions to the job description listed. Copies of the job description have been included with the agenda.

#### **Wellness Coordinator**

After the job description has been reviewed by the Board of School Directors and the administration, the administration will present the updated job description for Board approval at the October 15, 2012 Board meeting.

#### **M. Tenure Status (INFORMATION ITEM)**

The following professional employee has completed the required years of service as a temporary professional employee and has earned tenure based on his satisfactory performance.

**Anthony Bavaria      District School Psychologist**

Additional information regarding the professional employee has been prepared by Mr. Bill Gillet, Supervisor of Special Education.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XII. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)**

#### **N. Updated Policies**

**(INFORMATION ITEM)**

The administration has submitted the updated policies listed below for Board review.

##### **203 Communicable Diseases and Immunizations**

###### **203.1 HIV Infection**

##### **207 Student Health**

##### **209 Health Examinations/Screenings**

##### **210 Use of Medications**

###### **210.1 Possession/Use of Asthma Inhalers/Epinephrine Auto-Injectors**

##### **211 Student Accident Insurance**

##### **205 Postgraduate Students**

##### **212 Reporting Student Progress**

##### **213 Assessment of Student Progress**

##### **214 Class Rank**

##### **215 Promotion and Retention**

##### **216 Student Records**

###### **216.1 Supplemental Discipline Records**

##### **236 Confidential Communication of Student**

The updated Policies are included with the agenda. The updated policies will be an action item on the October 15, 2012 School Board Agenda.

### **XIII. FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEM**

There were no future Board agenda items.

### **XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **A. District Improvement Committee – Mr. Norris/Mr. McCrea**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

The District Improvement Committee is slated to meet on October 22, 2012.

#### **B. Athletic Committee – Mr. Swanson**

Vice President Swanson reported that the Athletic Committee met on Thursday, September 27, 2012, at 7:00 A.M. Mr. Swanson reported the following items addressed at the meeting:

1. For the first time since 1989, the girls' cross country team won the conference championship.
2. The participation of fall student athletes increased from 295 in 2011 to 310 in 2012.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **B. Athletic Committee (Continued)**

3. A dress code has been created for track and cross country practices.
4. Most schools are following the modified Mid Penn junior high competition schedule. A couple larger schools chose not to follow the new schedule.
5. Issues related to midget football continue to be discussed by the Athletic Committee.

#### **C. Vocational-Technical School – Mr. Wolf/Mr. Piper**

President Wolf reported the following:

1. The opening of the vo-tech school went well.
2. Candidates for a new diesel instructor are being interviewed, and a recommendation is expected to fill this position at the next JOC meeting.
3. Big Spring's vo-tech enrollment of fewer than 90 students is lower than it has been for some time. The administration vowed to make an effort to increase this "viable part of who we are." Mr. Wolf noted that students are graduating from the vo-tech program earning "significant salaries," or are advancing to two- or four-year colleges.

#### **D. Buildings and Property Committee – Mr. Barrick**

Motion by Barrick, seconded by Swanson directing the administration to contract with Wolf Consulting Engineers, LLC for the design, document preparation, bidding process, and construction administration of the Big Spring Middle School and District Administration Office window replacement project at a cost not to exceed \$46,000. Wolf Consulting Engineers, LLC, CE, is directed to work with the administration and Board to prepare bid specifications for the Board of School Directors to formally approve and release not later than the December 17, 2012 meeting. Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

#### **E. Finance Committee – Mr. Blasco**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

Mr. Kerr reported that Big Spring earned a positive bond rating recently, and the District's financial advisors are moving forward with the process of refinancing and restructuring debt.

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### **XIV. COMMITTEE REPORTS (Continued)**

#### **F. South Central Trust – Mr. Blasco**

The year-end financials from the South Central Trust show a negative \$250,000 in the trust. Mr. Kerr noted that this does not mean the fund is broke because there is still a million dollars in the fund; however, this amount would not cover the two months of contract health care the District would owe if the insurance were canceled. An adjustment to the health insurance rates is to be expected beginning July 1, 2013, for 2013-2014. The adjustment is required based on usage.

#### **G. Capital Area Intermediate Unit – Mr. Wolf**

President Wolf indicated that Shawn Farr, Director of Business and Operations and Board Treasurer at the CAIU, has submitted his resignation effective September 30, 2012. Mr. Farr has accepted a position with Carlisle Area School District. The CAIU has decided not to fill Mr. Farr's position and plans to have existing staff members absorb those duties. Additional compensation would be offered to at least one of the existing staff members for fulfilling some of the duties. The CAIU's net savings from the elimination of the position is \$30,000 to \$40,000 annually.

#### **H. Tax Collection Committee (TCC) – Mr. Wolf**

No meeting was conducted, and no report was offered.

The buy-in for the Cumberland County Tax Bureau is less than \$10,000, much lower than originally expected.

### **XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### **A. Food Services Update**

Superintendent Fry indicated that the cafeteria participation rates increased recently at the secondary level and decreased at the elementary level; however, participation has remained similar compared with prior years.

Mr. Fry reminded the Board that regular school lunch prices increased by 5 cents this year. If students choose the à la carte line, they would notice an increase in those prices this year as well.

Mr. Fry noted that nationally students have been protesting the federal regulations on food services, and he added that the District has communicated with families regarding the legislated changes to the District's food services.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

#### **A. Food Services Update (Continued)**

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Fry indicated that legislation at the federal level dictates the food and caloric content for both regular lunches and à la carte

Mr. Gilliam explained that à la carte could be paired with fruits and vegetables to create a reimbursable lunch at the secondary level. Additional signage has been added and cashiers are making an effort to educate students how to make food choices that qualify for reimbursable lunches and cost less for the students.

#### **B. Keystone Exams**

Superintendent Fry indicated that Mr. Roberts would provide a Keystone Exams update to the Board soon. Regardless of what classes juniors are taking this year, they are required to take the Keystone Exams in biology, Algebra I, and literature. Some of these students could have taken Algebra I in eighth grade. The Keystone Exams are going to be used to calculate AYP for 2012-2013.

In response to a question from President Wolf, Mr. Fry indicated that students would take the Keystone Exams in the December/January time frame as well as the end of the year. Students could be required to wait two months or longer to receive Keystone Exam scores. Big Spring uses both paper/pencil and electronic exams.

Mr. Fry indicated that the Keystone Exams would have no impact on a student's graduation at this time; however, it determines AYP for the high school."

In response to a question from Director Piper, Mr. Fry indicated that juniors are being prepared for the Keystone Exams, especially those who took Algebra I in Grade 8. Although the preparation is being built in as part of a student's grade for a current class, the Keystone Exams do not become a graduation requirement until 2017. Mr. Fry noted that it is imperative to motivate students to do well on the Keystone Exams because of the impact the scores have on the District's AYP.

Beginning this year, students would take the Algebra I Keystone Exam immediately following the course. These tests are especially difficult for juniors who may have taken a course several years prior.

Mr. Fry added that Pennsylvania is one in six states that did not apply for an AYP waiver, although Big Spring is doing nearly everything required for a waiver.

## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT (Continued)**

#### **C. Keystone Opportunity Grants**

Mr. Fry reminded the Board about the Keystone Opportunity Grants that are given students who attend schools in the bottom 15 percentile for PSSA scores throughout the state to use as tuition vouchers for other districts or private schools. Mr. Fry reported that Big Spring's 2011-2012 percentiles improved across the District as follows:

- Newville Elementary School increased from the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 36<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Oak Flat Elementary School increased from the 63<sup>rd</sup> percentile to the 68<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- Mount Rock Elementary School increased from the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 68<sup>th</sup> percentile (jumping 600 buildings).
- Big Spring Middle School increased from the 51<sup>st</sup> percentile to the 53<sup>rd</sup> percentile.
- Big Spring High School increased from the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile to the 38<sup>th</sup> percentile.
- District-wide scores increased from the 31<sup>st</sup> percentile to the 49<sup>th</sup> percentile.

These statistics place Big Spring at Number 283 of the 501 school districts in Pennsylvania, which is aligned with the average income level of residents. Mr. Fry noted that he is pleased to report that Big Spring has nearly achieved the upper 50<sup>th</sup> percentile statewide.

#### **D. Student Enrollment**

Superintendent Fry indicated that student enrollment at the end of September is 2,714. There are 94 cyber students, consistent with the last three years. Twenty-one of those students are enrolled in Big Spring's cyber option. The 94 students who are enrolled in cyber school receive invitations from Big Spring two or three times to attend a presentation regarding Big Spring's cyber option.

The cost to Big Spring for one cyber student is \$9,300 for regular education and \$22,900 for special education. A significant portion of the 94 cyber students have an IEP. With the present enrollment, the cyber tuition for Big Spring is approximately \$1 million annually.

### **XVI. BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR**

There was no business from the floor.



## **Big Spring School Board Meeting Minutes ~ Monday, October 1, 2012**

### **XVII. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING FUTURE BOARD AGENDA ITEMS**

**Ms. Laurie Turner**, 290 Kerrsville Road, Carlisle, PA 17015, addressed the members of the Board of School Directors regarding the Big Spring Middle School Student Council fundraiser addressed during this evening's public comment by Ms. Summer Turner.

Ms. Laurie Turner reiterated the concerns expressed by Ms. Summer Turner and questioned whether the Board would be addressing this issue since there was no response following the public comment earlier. Ms. Laurie Turner suggested that the illusionist show should be made available for all students, regardless of ability to sell \$45 in fundraiser items.

President Wolf indicated that the Board was unaware of the details of the fundraiser and would be requesting additional information from the Superintendent as to why this happened or what would happen.

Superintendent Fry indicated that he was unaware of the details of the fundraiser and noted that he would investigate and report details to the Board in writing.

In response to a question from Ms. Laurie Turner, Mr. Fry indicated that he did not know when he would have the additional information; however, he noted that the fundraiser end date is October 2, 2012.

Ms. Laurie Turner indicated that she understands offering prizes to those who sell fundraiser items; however, punishing students who are unable to participate in the fundraiser does not seem to enhance the educational experience.

President Swanson noted that he believes this Board would not have approved such a fundraiser with the circumstances as described this evening.

President Wolf thanked Ms. Summer Turner and Ms. Laurie Turner for bringing this matter to the Board's attention.

Ms. Laurie Turner thanked the members of the Board of School Directors for allowing her to speak this evening.

### **XVIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Norris, seconded by Barrick to adjourn. Roll call vote: Voting Yes: McCrea, Norris, Piper, Barrick, Swanson, and Wolf. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:03 P.M.

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Robert Lee Barrick, Secretary

**NEXT SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING: Monday, October 15, 2012**